

D³
M₃ | 27 The method of Claim 21, wherein said contacting step comprises administering said self antigen preparation and said CTLA-4 blocking agent to said mammalian host either simultaneously or sequentially.

(No₅) D⁴ | 31. The method of Claim 21, comprising contacting said mammalian T cell with an immune response stimulating agent either simultaneously or sequentially.

REMARKS

Claims 22, 29, 30 and 32 were cancelled in the reply of November 23, 2001. As a preliminary matter, a review of the response shows that amendments were made to claim 26, which was directed to a non-elected invention. In this regard, Applicants respectfully request cancellation of claim 26 and its withdrawal from further consideration in relation to the current action. Applicants regret any inconvenience the error may have caused. In addition, Applicants have amended claim 24 for technical clarity in accordance with the suggestions made by the Examiner. Support is found in the specification on page 18 (lines 15-22), page 20 (lines 14-20), and page 48 (lines 14-31). Accordingly, after entry of the amendments, claims 21, 23-25, 27, 28 and 31 remain pending in the current application.

The Office Action dated February 25, 2002 states that the reply filed on November 23, 2001 was not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because the marked up copy of the claims failed to show all the changes relative to the previous version of the claims. In reply, Applicants have provided herein an amended clean version of the claims above and a "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES." The marked up version is based on the respective claims as filed in the Preliminary Amendment of June 23, 2000. Applicants respectfully submit that the amended versions comply with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §

1.121. No new matter is added by way of the amendments. An Appendix of pending claims is attached for the Examiner's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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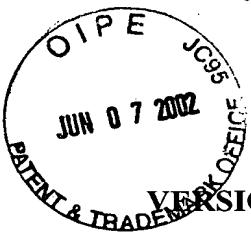


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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES

21. A method for inhibiting the growth of non-T cell tumor cells in a mammalian host, the method comprising:

contacting at least one T cell of said host with a [first immune response stimulating agent] self antigen preparation and a CTLA-4 blocking agent characterized as specifically binding to the extracellular domain of CTLA-4 and inhibitory of CTLA-4 signaling;

wherein said contacting is effective to [inhibit the growth of non-T cell tumor cells in said host] break immune tolerance and stimulate an autoreactive T cell response against said self antigen expressed on said non-T cell tumor cells and normal cells.

23. The method of Claim [22] 21, wherein said self antigen preparation comprises a tumor vaccine.

24. The method of Claim 23, wherein said tumor vaccine comprises [cytokine transduced] tumor cells transduced with a cytokine-encoding transgene.

25. The method of Claim [22] 21, wherein said self antigen preparation comprises tumor cell lysates.

27 The method of Claim 21, wherein said contacting step comprises administering said [first immune response stimulating agent] self antigen preparation and said CTLA-4 blocking agent to said mammalian host either simultaneously or sequentially.

31. The method of Claim 21, comprising contacting said mammalian T cell with [a second] an immune response stimulating agent either simultaneously or sequentially.



APPENDIX OF PENDING CLAIMS

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21. A method for inhibiting the growth of non-T cell tumor cells in a mammalian host, the method comprising:

contacting at least one T cell of said host with a [first immune response stimulating agent] self antigen preparation and a CTLA-4 blocking agent characterized as specifically binding to the extracellular domain of CTLA-4 and inhibitory of CTLA-4 signaling;

wherein said contacting is effective to [inhibit the growth of non-T cell tumor cells in said host] break immune tolerance and stimulate an autoreactive T cell response against said self antigen expressed on said non-T cell tumor cells and normal cells.

23. The method of Claim [22] 21, wherein said self antigen preparation comprises a tumor vaccine.

24. The method of Claim 23, wherein said tumor vaccine comprises [cytokine transduced] tumor cells transduced with a cytokine-encoding transgene.

25. The method of Claim [22] 21, wherein said self antigen preparation comprises tumor cell lysates.

27 The method of Claim 21, wherein said contacting step comprises administering said [first immune response stimulating agent] self antigen preparation and said CTLA-4 blocking agent to said mammalian host either simultaneously or sequentially.

28. The method of Claim 21, wherein said contacting step occurs *ex vivo* and said at least one T cell is administered to said host.

31. The method of Claim 21, comprising contacting said mammalian T cell with
[a second] an immune response stimulating agent either simultaneously or sequentially.